

Message Text

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12

ACTION PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 8992

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MRS. MARY POMEROY

REF STATE 198080; JIDDA 5374

1. IN VIEW JIDDA REFTTEL, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MRS. POMEROY WILL GET SAUDI VISA IN TIME FOR TRIP TO JIDDA THIS WEEK. AT HER REQUEST, AMBASSADOR HAS ATTEMPTED FOR MUCH OF DAY TO TELEPHONE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR NAZIR TO DISCUSS MATTER AND TO INQUIRE RE NAZIR'S ALLEGED CABLE TO SAUDI MFA. BECAUSE OF SEVERAL PROTRACTED POWER FAILURES AND APPARENT SAUDI EMBASSY TELEPHONE DIFFICULTIES, WE HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT. MOREOVER, WITH ADVENT OF RAMADAN, SAUDI EMBASSY PERSONNEL LEAVE EARLY. PERHAPS THIS ALL AN HONEST MISTAKE, BUT WE CANNOT ESCAPE SUSPICION MRS. POMEROY IS GETTING RUN-AROUND FROM SAUDIS. SHE INFORMED US THAT SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN ASKED FOR HER VISA AS FAR BACK AS MARCH, THOUGH IT ALLEGEDLY DELAYED SENDING REQUEST UNTIL AROUND JUNE. AMBASSADOR WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS CONTACT SAUDI AMBASSADOR NAZIR, BUT IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL LATTER CAN OR WILL DO ANYTHING.

2. SINCE HER UPCOMING TRIP TO JIDDA SEEMS DOUBTFUL, MRS. POMEROY HAS ASKED US TO CONVEY TO EMBASSY JIDDA HER REQUEST THAT IT MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SAG FOR
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DELEGATION OF 17 LADIES OF SOCIETY FOR FRIENDSHIP

AMONG WOMEN WHO ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO VISIT
JIDDA NOVEMBER 14-16 AND RIYADH NOVEMBER 16-18.
MRS. POMEROY ALSO REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY JIDDA FOLLOW
UP ON HER EFFORTS THAT ALL 17 LADIES RECEIVE SAUDI
VISAS BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR JIDDA. SHE ASKS
THAT EMBASSY ARRANGE PROGRAM FOR GROUP WITH "DISTINGUISHED
SAUDI LADIES PROMINENT IN PUBLIC LIFE, INCLUDING THE
QUEEN." SHE HAS GIVEN US FOR POUCHING TO JIDDA FOUR
INVITATION CARDS WHICH SHE REQUESTS EMBASSY JIDDA
DISPATCH TO APPROPRIATE LADIES FOR DINNER PARTY WHICH
GROUP WILL HOST AT TIME AND PLACE WHICH EMBASSY
DEEMS APPROPRIATE. AT HER REQUEST, WE ARE ALSO
POUCHING TO JIDDA INFORMATION ON GROUP AND ITS UPCOMING TOUR.

3. FOR DEPT: WHILE WE BELIEVE VISIT OF GROUP TO
EGYPT HAS PROMISE, IF PROPERLY MANAGED, WE ARE SOMEWHAT CON-
CERNED THAT MRS. POMEROY HERSELF MAY NOT HAVE A FULL BRIEFING
BY ANYONE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF MIDDLE EAST AREA. IF COMMENDABLE
PURPOSE OF THE MISSION IS TO BE ACHIEVED, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL
THAT HER GROUP BE BRIEFED BEFORE IT LEAVES US. IN
EGYPT, FOR EXAMPLE, MRS. POMEROY MET WITH MRS. SADAT WHO
ALLEGEDLY WELCOMED FACT THAT THE GROUP WILL INCLUDE MEDICAL
SPECIALISTS ON BURNS AND REHABILITATION. WHAT SHE MAY NOT UNDER-
STAND, HOWEVER, IS THAT EGYPTIAN PLEASURE AT INCLUSION
OF THESE TWO DISTINGUISHED LADIES IS DUE IN LARGE PART
TO EXPECTATION THEY (AND INDEED THE WHOLE GROUP)
WILL CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO MRS. SADAT'S WAFI WAL AMAL
CHARITY. UNFORTUNATELY, AN EGYPTIAN LADY IS CONSTANTLY
ESCORTING MRS. POMEROY, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN
TO HER PRIVATELY SOME OF THE FACTS OF LIFE IN DEALING WITH
THIS COUNTRY. JIDDA BETTER ABLE TO COMMENT ON
GROUP'S PROPOSED SAUDI STOP. SINCE MRS. POMEROY
TELLS US DEPUTY ASST SECY VIRGINIA ALLEN HELPED
ARRANGE MIDDLE EAST TOUR, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND
THAT SHE INSURE BRIEFING BE GIVEN BY SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE
ON THIS PART OF THE WORLD BEFORE GROUP DEPARTS.
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